

newspapers published prior to 1821. His work was printed in installments in the Proceedings of the Society over a period of years, and finally, in 1947, was published as one of the marvels of modern bibliography -- his History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820 (two volumes). This publication, which contains historical sketches of the papers as well as the location of issues, with its supplements, will remain a model for others to emulate.

Meanwhile, the Bibliographical Society of America undertook the mammoth task of compiling a union list of all American newspapers after 1820. The result was the publication in 1937 of American Newspapers, 1821-1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada, edited by Winifred Gregory. Because of the enormity of the task, Miss Gregory made no effort to include a history of the papers. This publication was the result of compilations prepared by a large number of individuals throughout the country, and it is not at all surprising that errors appeared. Errors are a necessary accessory to any such publication containing literally hundreds of thousands of dates.

But the need for the Union List of North Carolina Newspapers, 1751-1900, resulted not so much from shortcomings of previous publications as from the spirited activity of research institutions in recent years in locating and making available thousands of additional papers -- some of them additional issues of known papers, but more importantly some of them copies of papers not previously known to have been published. It is a source of pride to the compilers of this new list that several hundred titles have been included that do not appear in any previously published list.